



JERRY DIGGER O'DELL

Obituary

AUG 1, 1928 - MAR 18, 2012



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Jerry 'Digger' O'Dell, a life - long resident of Corydon, Iowa met his Maker on Sunday, March 18, 2012 at the Wayne County Hospital. Jerry was 83. Jerry was born on August 1, 1928, in the home right next door to where he currently lived. He was the only son of Curtis F. O'Dell and Thelma Marie Rynor O'Dell. He attended country school, graduating from Corydon High School in 1947. He went on to Simpson College, Indianola, Iowa and returned to Wayne County and worked for the Davis Brothers. He later purchased his own heavy equipment from Bob and Jim Davis and employed the 'Becker Boys'. This business continued nearly 47 years. In 1953, he met and married Mary Jo Watts. To this union their daughter Jeralee was born. He later reconnected with his High School sweetheart, Lynne Sutton - Weaver. Jerry lost Lynne this past summer and it was then his own health began to fail; however, he continued to stay active as possible devoting all his time and energy to his family and friends. Jerry served on the Wayne County Board of Supervisors from January 1987 thru December 2010. He was instrumental in the development, construction and operation of the New Venture Group Home and was involved in the County Farm. Jerry served on various Boards and Commissions; including but not limited to: Wayne County Development Corporation, long time member of the Wayne - Ringgold - Decatur County Solid Waste Management, Chariton Valley Planning and Development, Iowa Watershed, RC&D, Rathbun Regional Recycling, where he took the lead role in the development of the recycling program, working various counties and agencies obtaining grant funds for the trailers that are still being used yet today, Rathbun Land and Water Alliance and the Juvenile Group Home. Jerry also took extreme interest in carpentry work and hunting in the great outdoors. He was preceded in death by his parents, his step-father Shuble McDaniel, Lynne Weaver and grandson Brett 'Hickory' McMurry. He is survived by his daughter Jeralee and husband John McCarty of Corydon, Iowa; step-children Celine and



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husband Lane Kuehl of Johnston, Iowa; Craig and wife Bonnie McMurry of Corydon, Iowa; grandchildren Jeremy and Julie McCarty of West Des Moines, Iowa, Jennifer and Mitch Cashatt of Parkersburg, Iowa, Kelsey Noll of Johnston, Iowa and Echo McMurry of Corydon, Iowa; great grandchildren Estelle and Ireland Cashatt of Parkersburg, Iowa and his beloved companion 'Birdee'. The Legacy of Jerry bears tribute to what small town, rural America has stood for. He was a multi-tasking 'super man' making every effort to connect and reconnect people - both family and friends by teaching and outreaching. Book Travel to Services To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of JERRY DIGGER O'DELL Obituary please visit our Sympathy Store.



Tribute Wall

JERRY DIGGER O'DELL Obituary

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Thomas Funeral Home posted:

October 21 at 11:20 AM



Thomas Funeral Home shared an album called **Obituary Wall**.



October 13 at 11:41 AM



Estelle posted:

Hey Papa Jerry ❤️ You are finally reunited with Nana. I miss you both so very much. I am sure you welcomed her to heaven with wide open arms. I am so hurt and saddened, but I am just reminded to trust in Gods plan and timing. I now have the two BEST guardian angels. Please shower your love over Papa John as he is in the hospital. I can't wait until the day that I don't have to live without you guys. Until we meet again. I love you both to the moon and back x infinity 🙏😊

March 13 at 7:00 PM



Estelle posted:

Hey Papa Jerry! Its me, Estelle, your great-granddaughter. As you can tell, my punctuation has gotten quite better since my last post from 2013. We miss you everyday! I know you are always watching over me & the rest of our family. Lots of crazy things are going on in our world today. Everything will be okay though. I've been shooting lots of big deer down here for you. We have our eyes spotted on an absolute giant for next year. I am hoping we can catch up with him. I have been doing really good in school. I am the class president for student council. Unfortunately, the school year is cut short, but high school will be a good change - really looking forward to new friends and sports. I sure am missing you! Love you so so much! Please watch over Nana & Papa extra, so they can stay happy and healthy! Love, Estelle.

April 23 at 7:00 PM



Estelle posted:

love and miss you papa jerry you are the best papa jerry i ever had and we will miss you mom and dad ireland and estelle nana and papa jeremy and julie lots of memories i love you

January 5 at 7:00 PM



Tribute Wall

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DA

Dave And Terry Hook - Adel, Ia posted:

Jeralee and family, So sorry to hear about your Dad. He was a good one and will be missed. We know how close you, Jeremy and the family were to him. As well, we always admired Jerry with his quick wit and soft heart! He was truly a friend. Please accept our condolences and relay them to Jeremy and the rest of the family. We are unable to make it down but are thinking about you. Dave and Terry

March 22 at 7:00 PM

GF

Gary And Lisa Thomas - Pleasant Hill, Ia - Friend posted:

We will miss Jerry and his zest for life! His memory will always be in our hearts. We wish to extend our thoughts and prayers to the family and many friends who all loved Jerry so much, Sincerely Gary and Lisa Thomas

March 19 at 7:00 PM



Media

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Thomas Funeral Home shared a photo to the **Obituary Wall** album.

October 13 at 11:41 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring JERRY by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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